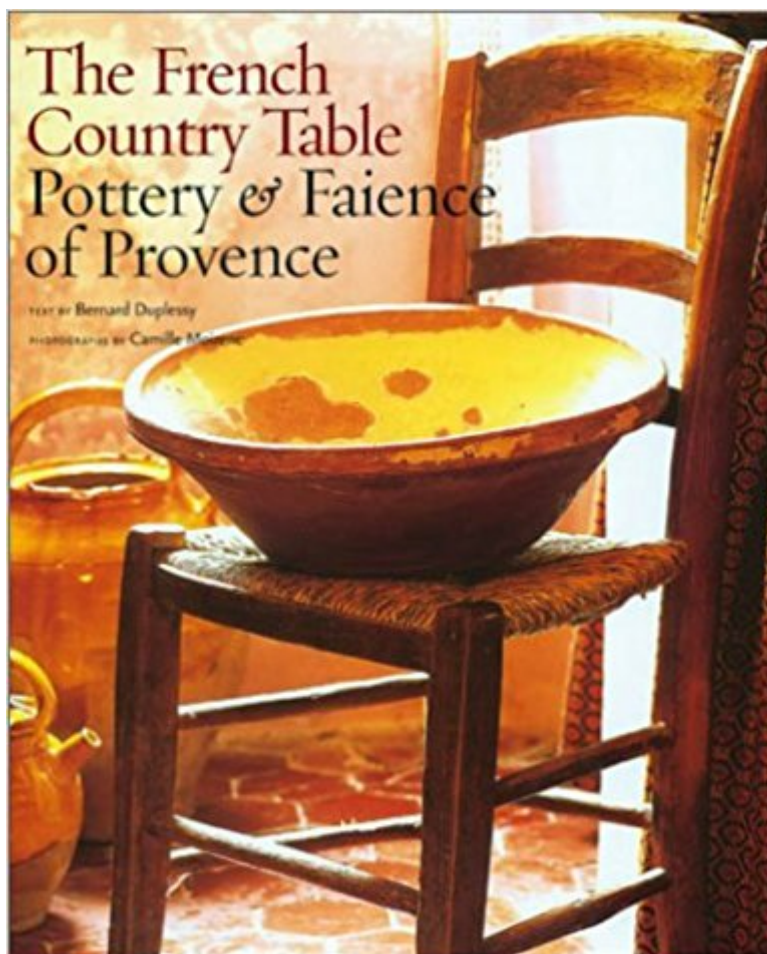


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The French Country Table: Pottery & Faience Of Provence



Synopsis

This lushly photographed book takes the reader on a sun-soaked journey to Provence to view the process of creation involved in the crafts of pottery and faience. Accompanied by historical anecdotes, this book goes inside the centuries-old ateliers of Provence to examine the making of pottery and faience from the cultivating of clay and its shaping at the potter's wheel to the kilns, painted decoration and more.

Book Information

Hardcover: 192 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Bernard Duplessy, a longtime lover of Provence, is an expert on the region's history, literature, cuisine, and architecture. He is the author of several historical novels on Provence, and several books on cooking. His *Mas et bastides de Provence* is also published by Aubanel. Camille Moirenc is originally from Aix-en-Provence, France, where he has been a photographer for over eleven years. His work focuses on landscapes and natural-light studies. His photographs can be seen in over a dozen published works on the South of France.

If rustic French pottery is your passion, you need this. As noted in the other review, some of the translation from the original French is sketchy, but passible. Disappointed that it did not include anything (not even a picture) on my favorite form (confit pot), but lots of other forms were detailed at length.

This \$39.95 cover price book is being remaindered at incredibly low prices. It's a large format book with gorgeous, evocative photos of French pottery beautifully printed on glossy stock. Delicious to look at. The problem is with the prose which was translated from the French by someone with a high school level knowledge of English, or else they simply relied on a computer translation. Some of it is translated too literally from the French and some of it is just so clumsy you have to laugh. "For Sylvie and William, craft is a passion. Before faience, it was a haze. Some friends in Biot brought them into the public eye, and once they made their debut, a second thunderbolt took them to Varges." It's hard to imagine how the publisher of such a lush and expensive book allowed it to be translated so poorly. Nevertheless, if you love pottery and Provence, this is a lovely book to have for the photos. And you can learn the history of pottery and the region as you wade through the purple prose. Did you know that the custom of rubbing cut garlic around the inside and outside of a pot to prepare it for cooking was to sanitize it? (this long before anyone knew about bacteria.) I imagine that is also why raw garlic was originally rubbed on a wooden salad bowl, not for the flavor as we do now.

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